Copper Ltd. (HCL), Manganese Ore India Ltd. (MOIL), National Aluminium Compoany Ltd. (NALCO), Sponge Iron India Ltd. (SIIL), Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. (HOCL), Engineers (India) Ltd. is on. Government has taken "in principle" decision to disinvest in the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL). The time by which the disinvestment process in all these public sector undertakings would be completed cannot be precisely indicated at this stage.

Growth of unemployment due to disinvestment policy

448. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the disinvestment policy of Government has resulted in growth of unemployment;

(b) if so, the details thereor;

(c) whether Government have taken any precautionary measures to deal with the situation of unemployment in the light of disinvestment policy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) No, Sir.There is no indication of increase in unemployment due to the disinvestment policy of the Government. On the contrary with increase in production in, and expansion of disinvested units, Government has every expectation that employment in the disinvested units will increase. The Government is committed to protect the interests of the workers, as mentioned by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for the year 2000-2001. Opening up the public sector to appropriate private investment would increase economic activity and have an overall beneficial effect on the economy, employment and tax revenues in the medium to long term.

Funds far various health programmes to Himachal Pradesh

†449**.** SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) the funds allocated by Government to Himachal Pradesh for various health programmes during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) whether it was sufficient for the above said plan period; and

(c) if not, the funds allocated to Himachal Pradesh for the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Financial assistance of over Rs. 29 crore was provided to Himachal Pradesh during the Ninth five Year Plan under various National Health Programmes for control of major diseases like Malaria, TB, Blindness, Leprosy and AIDS. Allocations under these programmes which are primarily made on the basis of demand from the State, incidence of disease and past performance were considered sufficient for the above said plan period.

(c) State-wise allocations for various National Health Programmes for control of major diseases are made only on a yearly basis.

Deaths due to AIDS, TB and Cancer

†450. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons died due to AIDS, TB and Cancer in the country during the last three years,State-wise; and

(b) the details of effective steps taken by Government, so far, to control the diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The numbers of deaths reported, State-wise, during the last three years due to AIDS, TB and Cancer are indicated in the Statements at Statements I, II and III. respectively. *{See* below)

(b) National Programmes for prevention and control of these diseases are already under implementation. Diagnostic and treatment facilities, preventive intervention through awareness campaigns for general population and active involvement of NGOs and Voluntary Organisations are some of the major components of these programmes.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.